Updating Indian Airlines/Air India

53. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state *

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to a news item captioned "Need to update airlines" which appeared in the Hindustan Times of the 29th September. 1992;

(b) if so, whether several foreign-airlines are earning huge profits as compared to the Indian Airlines/Air India;

(c) whether the aged fleet and non-observance of punctuality arc the major setbacks for airlmcs in India; and

(d) if so, what remedial measures Govcrnmeint proposc to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) According to published data of IATA, the world's scheduled airlines have suffered an estimated operating loss of US $ 1000 million during the year 1991. Most airlines, including US mega carriers and reputed European carriers have been in the red in this period. While Air India earned a net profit of Rs. 145.89 crores, Indian Airlines suffered a loss of Rs. 198.85 crores during the year 1991-92

(c) and (d) The average age of Indian Airlines fleet is 9.5 years and that of Air India is 9.8 years. Air India is acquiring four B 747-400 aircraft to replace the old aircraft. Indian Airlines is also adding 12 more A-320 aircraft to its fleet. Other measures like monitoring of punctuality, improvement of customer service etc, are also taken to improve the operating performance.

Vayudoot service to Gujarat

54. SHRI ANANTRAY DEV-SHANKER DAVE: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering to provide Vayudoot services to Bharuch-Godhra, Himatnagar, Mchsana and palanpur cities in Gujarat;

(b) whether it is a fact that in comparison to other States Gujarat, has very less air journey facilities; and

(c) if so, what steps Government are taking to promote air services in Gujarat?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) No Sir. nine cities/towns of Gujarat are airlinked by Vayudoot/ Indian Airlines.

Relief *to* Air Travellers of Tripura

55. SHRI SUDHIR RANJAN MAJUMDAR: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any representation from Jana Kalyan Parishcd of Tripura, Agartala, protesting against stceprise in passenger fares for Calcutta-Agartala air route;

(b) if so what arc the details thereof;

(c) whether Government propose to give some relief to the air travellers of Tripura in view of isolation of the State from the rest of the country and the pressing need of the people of that State to visit Calcutta by air despite the hefty fare; and

(d) if not, what arc the reasons therefor'?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Docs not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(J) The fares charged by Indian Airlines and Vavudoot Limited for